

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for spoofing stations while transmitting data through a medium in an arrangement including a first station that transmits sends a Request-to-Send (RTS) message ~~to an Access Point (AP)~~ that includes a duration field, which is received by and Access Point (AP), and a second station that transmits sends a Clear-to-Send (CTS) message that is responsive to the RTS message that also includes a duration field, where the duration field of the RTS message specifies defines a period of time that said first station requests the medium is to be reserved to allow unimpeded transmission of data that the first station has to transmit and the duration field of the CTS message also specifies said period of time, and where an obeying station in the arrangement, when it that receives either the RTS message or the CTS message, updates a Network Allocation Vector (NAV) of the obeying station with the duration information obtained from the received RTS message, or from the received CTS message when a corresponding RTS message was not received, and employs the NAV to refrain from transmitting as long as its NAV indicates that the medium is in use, characterized by:

~~—— said NAV being updated by said receptions from other stations, including said AP and other APs, and said first station employing the NAV to inhibit transmission by said obeying station as long as the NAV indicates that the medium is in use, and permitting resumption of transmission when the NAV indicates other than that the medium is in use;~~

said first station setting a duration value for its RTS message to a value other than a time period for a predetermined subsequent message transmission.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of unknown protocols are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of hidden stations are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station

are suppressed.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein critical transmissions are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least some of the stations are provided in an overlapping basic service set, and stations of the overlapping basic service set are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein stations of an enhanced version of a standard are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

10 - 13. (Canceled).